

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A closure for resealably closing a container, the closure comprising:
 - a closure body including:
 - a top deck;
 - a skirt downwardly depending from a periphery of the top deck, the skirt including threads disposed thereon;
 - an elongated orifice formed in the top deck, the elongated orifice defining a length that is greater than its width; and
 - a spout extending upwardly from the top deck substantially coextensive with the orifice, the spout and top deck merging to form a concave radius on an upper side of the top deck, an underside of the lower deck forming a convex radius proximate the orifice and opposite the concave radius, the spout including a pair of opposing vertical sidewalls and a pair of opposing curved end walls, the sidewalls outwardly bulging upon molding, the sidewalls substantially being mutually rectilinear and parallel upon cooling after molding;
 - a cap including a lid member, a cap sidewall extending downwardly from a periphery of the lid member, and a spout cover extending downwardly from the lid member, the spout cover including a spout cover sealing surface on an interior surface thereof for receiving the spout therein, the spout cover sealing surface and a surface of the spout forming a sealing contact therebetween while the cap is in a closed position thereby forming an outside seal relative to the spout; and
 - a hinge coupled between the body and the cap for enabling actuation of the cap relative to the body between an open position in which the spout cover is disengaged with the spout and the closed position in which the spout cover is engaged with the spout,

whereby the orifice enables dispensing of container contents therethrough while the cap is in the open position and the spout cover prevents dispensing of the container contents while the cap is in the closed position.

2. canceled
3. (previously presented) The closure of claim 2 wherein interior surfaces of the sidewalls, upon molding prior to cooling or shrinking, are spaced apart proximate their longitudinal centers by between 0.001 and 0.020 inches more than the sidewalls are spaced apart proximate their ends.
4. (previously presented) The closure of claim 2 wherein interior surfaces of the sidewalls, upon molding prior to cooling or shrinking, are spaced apart proximate their longitudinal centers by between 0.002 and 0.010 inches more than the sidewalls are spaced apart proximate their ends.
5. (previously presented) The closure of claim 2 wherein interior surfaces of the sidewalls, upon molding prior to cooling or shrinking, are spaced apart proximate their longitudinal centers by between 0.003 and 0.006 inches more than the sidewalls are spaced apart proximate their ends.
6. (original) The closure of claim 1 wherein the spout cover deflects outwardly relative to the spout while the cap is moved from the open position to the closed position, thereby forming an interference fit between the spout and the spout cover.
7. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the spout cover is continuous and annular.
8. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the spout cover contacts an exterior surface of the spout to form the sealing surface therebetween.
9. (canceled)

10. (original) The closure of claim 1 wherein the sealing contact between the spout and the spout cover inhibits vapor infiltration into a head-space within the closure.
11. (previously presented) The closure of claim 10 further comprising a bottom seal formed on an underside of the closure, the bottom seal capable of inhibiting vapor infiltration between the closure and a corresponding container into the head-space.
12. (previously presented) The closure of claim 11 wherein the bottom seal is a flexible member protruding downwardly from the underside of the closure.
13. (previously presented) The closure of claim 11 wherein the bottom seal is a crab claw type seal.
14. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the spout is continuous about the orifice.
15. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the spout cover is continuous about the spout while the cap is in the closed position.
16. (previously presented) The closure of claim 6 wherein the cap further includes a thumb tab extending outwardly from the cap sidewall.
17. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the top deck is substantially circular and the skirt is substantially cylindrical.
18. (previously presented) The closure of claim 6 wherein the hinge includes a flexible web that comprises a first end coupled to the skirt and an opposing second end coupled to the cap sidewall, the web capable of urging the cap toward either one of the open position or the closed position, whereby the hinge is a snap action hinge.
19. (previously presented)) The closure of claim 6 wherein the body includes an annular recess formed at a periphery of the top deck, the annular recess including a seating surface, a distal lip of the cap sidewall contacting the seating surface upon a spout

cover bead engaging a spout bead to form sealing contact therebetween while the cap is in the closed position.

20. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the orifice is a slot including substantially parallel opposing sides and curved ends therebetween.

21. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the orifice is substantially elliptical.

22. (original) The closure of claim 6 wherein the orifice is spaced apart from a longitudinal centerline of the closure.

23. (withdrawn) A mold for receiving plastic therein for forming a closure, the mold including:

a gate region through which plastic is received; and

a mold cavity in communication with the gate region, the mold cavity comprising:

a cavity body region including surfaces for forming:

a top deck surface;

a skirt surface downwardly depending from a periphery of the top deck surface, the skirt surface including thread surfaces disposed thereon;

an elongated orifice surface formed in the top deck surface, the elongated orifice surface defining a length that is greater than its width; and

a spout surface extending upwardly from the top deck surface substantially coextensive with the orifice surface, the spout surface and top deck surface merging to form a concave radius on an upper side of the top deck surface, an underside of the lower deck surface forming a convex radius proximate the orifice surface and opposite the concave radius, the spout surface including a pair of opposing vertical sidewall surfaces that are mutually spaced apart more proximate sidewall center surfaces than proximate sidewall end surfaces thereby forming bulging sidewall surface;

a cavity cap region including surfaces for forming a lid member, a cap sidewall extending downwardly from a periphery of the lid member, and a spout cover extending downwardly from the lid member, the spout cover including a spout cover sealing surface on an interior surface thereof for receiving the spout therein, the spout cover sealing surface and a surface of the cap forming a sealing contact therebetween while the cap is in a closed position thereby forming an outside seal relative to the spout; and

a cavity hinge region including surfaces coupled between the cavity body region and the cavity cap region for enabling actuation of the cap relative to the cavity body region between an open position in which the spout cover is disengaged with the spout and the closed position in which the spout cover is engaged with the spout,

whereby closures formed in the mold include sidewalls that upon cooling after molding are substantially mutually rectilinear and parallel.

24. (withdrawn) The mold of claim 23 wherein the sidewall surfaces are spaced apart proximate their longitudinal centers by between approximately 0.001 and 0.020 inches more than the sidewalls are spaced apart proximate their ends.
25. (withdrawn) The mold of claim 23 wherein the sidewall surfaces are spaced apart proximate their longitudinal centers by between approximately 0.002 and 0.010 inches more than the sidewalls are spaced apart proximate their ends.
26. (withdrawn) The mold of claim 23 wherein the sidewall surfaces are spaced apart proximate their longitudinal centers by between approximately 0.003 and 0.006 inches more than the sidewalls are spaced apart proximate their ends.